



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul D. LaPage
GOVERNOR

9 July 2013

Senate President Justin Alford
Office of the Senate President
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Speaker of the House Mark Eves
Office of the Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Alford and Speaker Eves:

Over the course of this legislative session, I have consistently said that we need to make tough choices to use our limited resources in the best possible manner. Unfortunately, I have had to veto a number of bills that direct the executive branch to complete any number of new projects "within existing resources," since often those resources do not exist. Those vetoes were sustained and therefore, under our Constitution, the Executive Branch is under no obligation to complete this work.

We have attempted to assist your work with information by providing details on programs, explanations of how statutory changes will impact businesses, and giving accurate information as to the true cost of many of these changes. It is appropriate for a collegial atmosphere to exist among the branches and there be a constructive working relationship. Those relationships begin with respect.

Unfortunately, I have recently been made aware that a number of legislative committee chairs have attempted to bypass the legislative process by writing letters to State agencies asking for countless studies, reports, and other in-depth analysis. Some of these are enclosed. You will notice that most of these requests were contained in bills voted "ought not to pass."

If the Legislature would like studies completed, you have your own resources to complete them, or you may pass a law requiring the Executive branch to do so. But in the latter case, I have an opportunity to veto the bill. That is the system our Constitution provides. It is inappropriate for the Legislature to formally request significant, additional work be done by executive branch agencies. It is especially inappropriate for those requests to not include the Governor's Office in the correspondence.

The Maine Constitution spells out the separation of powers and the executive power is vested in the Governor. That is why, from this point forward, if any of your committees would like studies completed, send them to my attention, whether in a Resolve or through a letter. I will then respond accordingly. My Cabinet has plenty of



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work running their agencies and I will not let the Legislature add to their workload without my consent or knowledge.

Lastly, make sure you fund these studies you send to my desk. "Existing resources" likely do not exist, especially when the Legislature pays their employees significantly more than we are currently permitted to pay Executive officials. It is time the Legislature recognizes that we have three co-equal branches of government in Maine and that one branch is not more equal than the others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul R. LePage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "LePage" clearly distinguishable.

Paul R. LePage
Governor

cc: Senator Michael Thibodeau
Representative Kenneth Fredette